



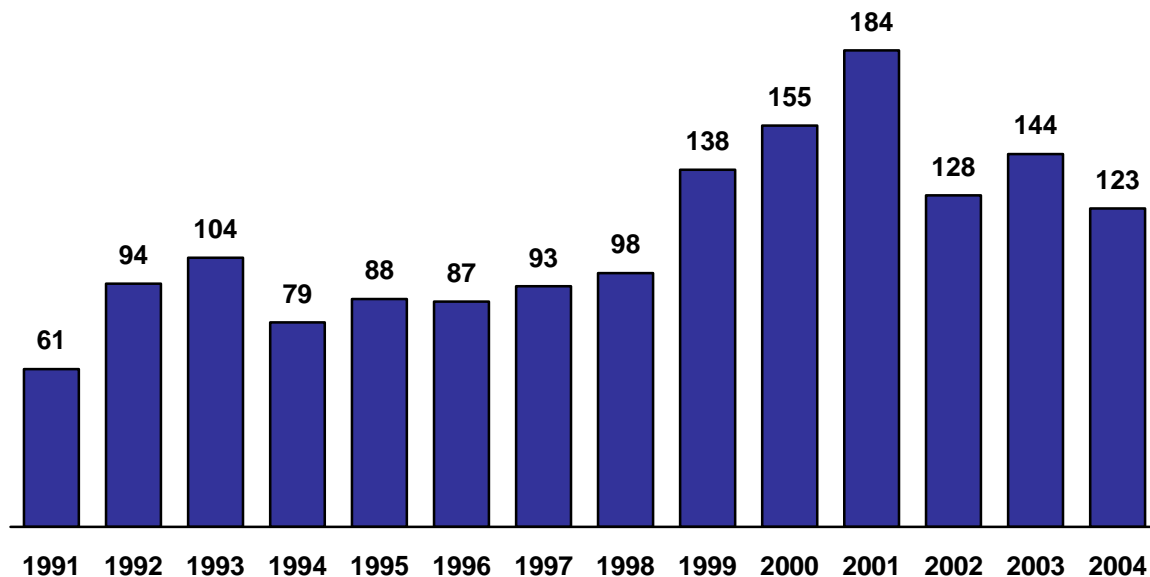
Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2004 Firework Injuries and Fires

From June 25 through July 5, 2004 123 firework-related injuries occurred – a 10 percent decrease from 2003. Ninety percent of the injuries occurred between July 1 and 5, with half of all injuries happening on July 4. All reported injuries occurred between 1 PM and midnight. Twenty percent of the injuries occurred in Omaha although most fireworks are illegal.

The majority of injuries were again first and second-degree burns. Most injuries involved the eyes, head and face, with hands and fingers being the next most commonly injured area of the body.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 14 years. The 1999 total includes nine injuries that occurred during the millennium firework season.

Firework Injuries



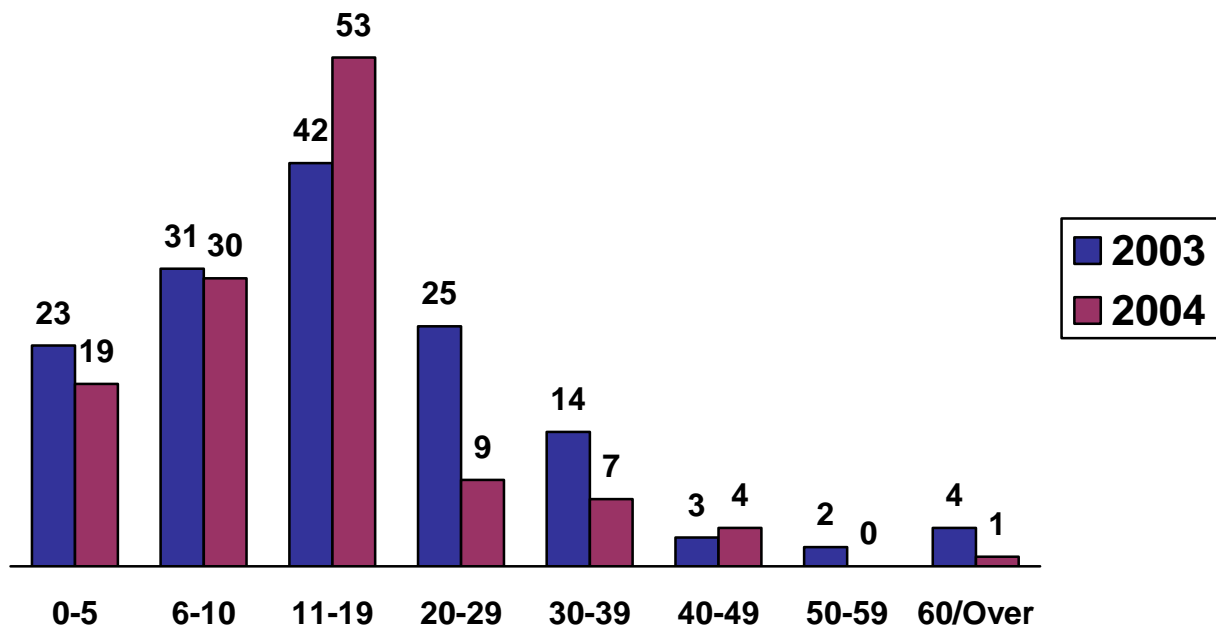
The majority of people injured were either in the vicinity of the firework when it went off or holding the device when it discharged. The number of people injured at public displays decreased again from 7 in 2003 to 5 in 2004. Public displays are the safest way to view fireworks.

Firecrackers continue to cause the most injuries. The number of injuries from illegal fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) decreased 4 from 19 in 2003 to 15 in 2004.

DEVICE	2003	2004	DEVICE	2003	2004
Base Fountain	7	8	Other	16	20
Bottle Rocket	8	4	Parachute	0	2
Cherry Bomb	1	1	Party Popper	1	1
Cone Fountain	1	0	Roman Candle	16	15
Firecracker	33	25	Sky Rocket	1	2
Ground Spinner	0	1	Smoke Bomb	11	7
Homemade	6	5	Sparkler	15	10
M-80	7	3	Unknown	11	12
Missile Rocket	2	5	Wheel	1	1

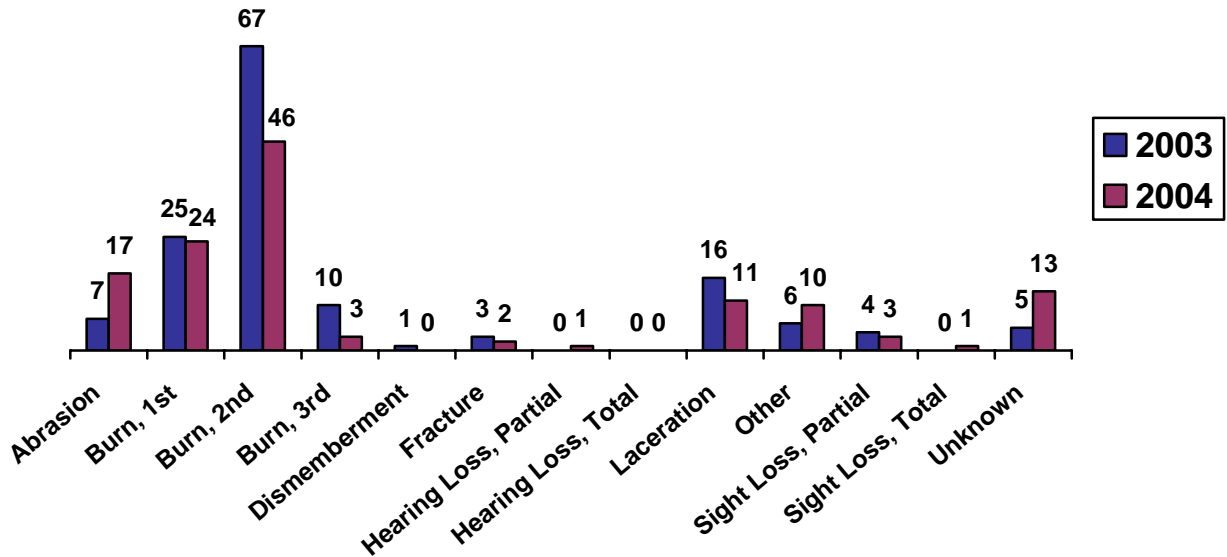
Ninety percent of the reported injuries occurred to children and young adults (age 19 and under). This is a 23 percent increase from 2003. Most injuries continue to happen to males (80) than females (36). The sex of seven injured people was not given.

Firework Injuries by Age



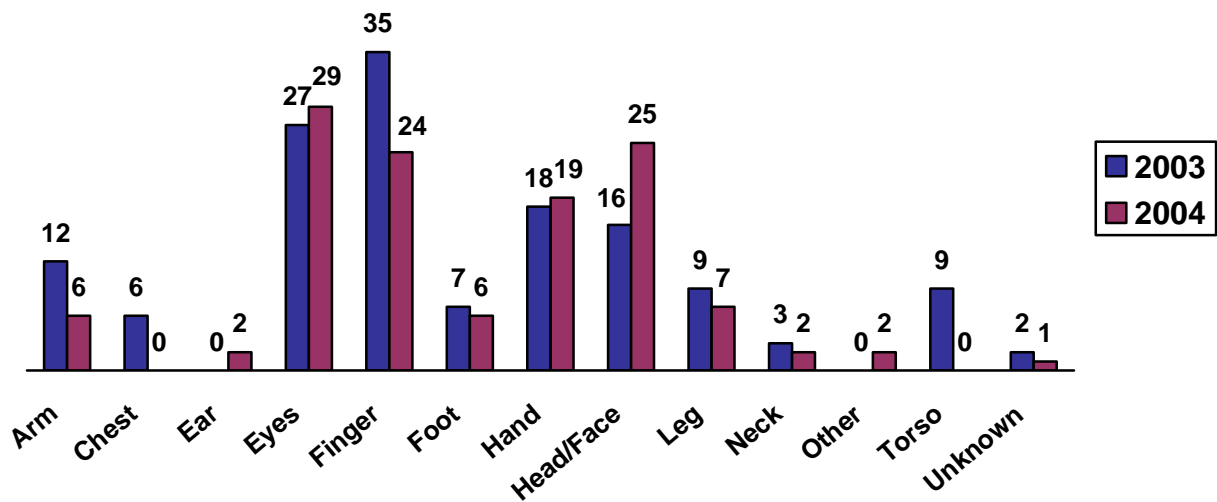
Firework Injuries

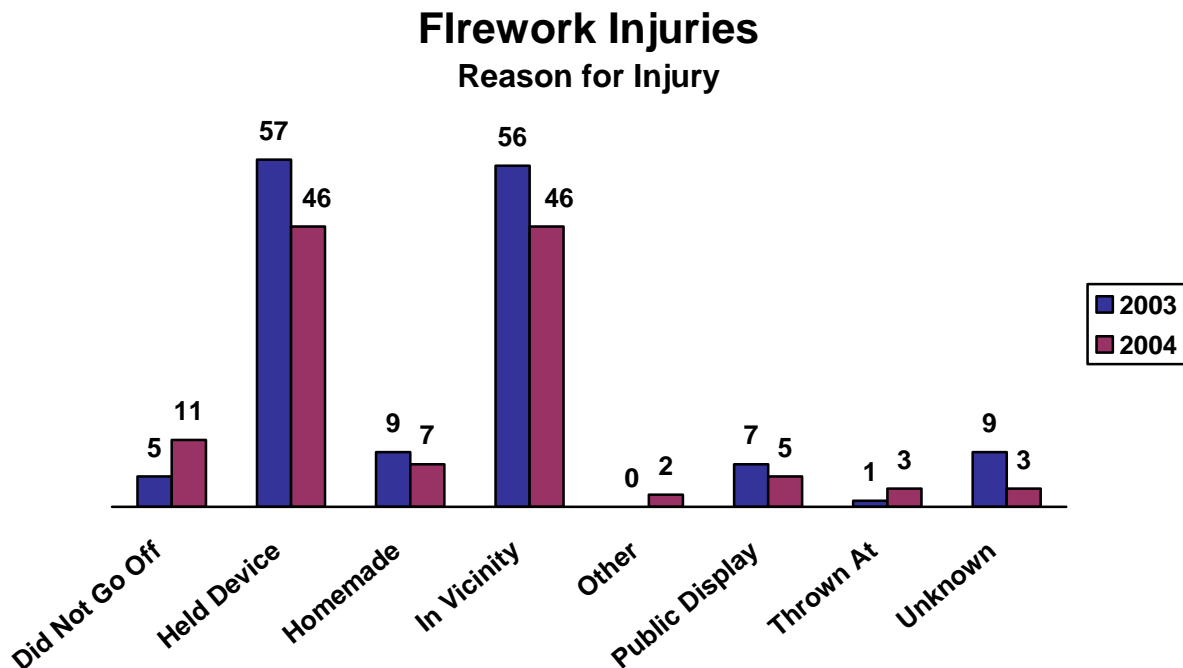
Type of Injuries



Firework Injuries

Body Part Injured





Some reasons given for the injuries are:

- Victim had firecrackers in his pocket. Not known how they caught on fire.
- Was holding sparkler and a piece from it fell onto ear and shoulder burning through shirt.
- Patient was watching fireworks – dog scared by loud noises and bit patient's leg.
- Tried to grab smoke bomb after it was lit.
- Family using professional grade aerial fireworks. One did not go up but instead exploded on the ground. Victim was 15 feet away and clothes caught on fire.
- Device went off faster than expected while lighting a second.
- Stepped on piece of sparkler.
- Younger child held Roman candle toward patient's legs.
- Child went to look over firework and it went off.
- Device went off too quick.
- Roman candle tipped over, shot sideways, entering patient's hand.
- Short defective fuse.
- Sitting on deck watching fireworks display in back yard, looked up and felt particles fall into eye.
- Ran into another child who was holding a punk
- Opening up cherry bombs and stacking the gunpowder then inserting a fuse and lighting it.
- Child playing with sparkler without shoes on. Stepped on hot wire on the ground.
- Broke firecracker in half. Powder on fingers then caught on fire.
- Spark from match flew onto firework while it was sitting on the ground.
- Picked up a bomb that had already gone off.
- Victim stepped on hot plastic pop bottle which melted after fireworks had been set off inside it.
- Kids were playing with fireworks and shooting them at each other.

- Patient was holding a bottle rocket while lighting and it went off.
- Bottle rockets in jean pocket caught on fire.

FIREWORK INJURIES AND WHERE THEY OCCURRED

CITY		COUNTY	
Name	Number	Name	Number
Alliance	2	Adams	3
Alma	1	Box Butte	2
Battle Creek	1	Buffalo	9
Beatrice	2	Burt	1
Beaver Crossing	1	Butler	1
Bellevue	2	Cass	2
Blair	4	Cherry	1
Chadron	1	Clay	1
Columbus	5	Cuming	1
Cozad	1	Dawes	1
David City	1	Dawson	3
Elm Creek	2	Douglas	24
Falls City	2	Fillmore	1
Geneva	1	Gage	2
Gordon	1	Hall	8
Gothenburg	1	Harlan	1
Grand Island	8	Holt	1
Gretna	1	Kimball	1
Harvard	1	Lancaster	4
Hastings	3	Lincoln	3
Henderson	1	Madison	9
Holdrege	2	Merrick	1
Kearney	7	Nuckolls	1
Kimball	1	Otoe	1
LaVista	2	Phelps	2
Lexington	1	Platte	5
Lincoln	4	Phelps	2
Lyons	1	Red Willow	1
McCook	1	Richardson	2
Nebraska City	1	Sarpy	6
Norfolk	8	Saunders	1
North Platte	3	Scotts Bluff	2
Omaha	24	Seward	3
O'Neill	1	Sheridan	1
Papillion	1	Washington	4
Plattsmouth	2	York	2
Scottsbluff	2	Unknown	12
Seward	2		
Silver Creek	1		
Superior	1		
Valentine	1		
Wahoo	1		
West Point	1		
Woodcliff Lake	1		
York	1		
Unknown	11		